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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Nigeria: Continuing violence in the long-troubled Western region has increased the danger of a general breakdown of law and order there.

Defiance of authority has been sustained ever since 11 October when the highly unpopular regional government rigged its own re-election. Last weekend cars driven by Americans and Britishers were attacked for the first time. The chief of the Nigerian police has warned that the morale of his men, nine of whom were massacred last month, is weakening.

The election winners and losers essentially represent rival factions of the region's predominant Yoruba tribe. Efforts to effect a political compromise show no sign of producing results.

The impasse is part of the wider struggle between progressive non-Muslim southerners and tradition-bound Muslim northerners who control the federal government. The northerners support the hated regime in the Western region, and probably will try to keep it in power by sending in even more federal army and police contingents.

*Bolivia: [The country is quiet following the apparent forced resignation and departure from the country of Co-President Barrientos.]

[The reasons behind General Barrientos' abrupt resignation and hasty departure for Switzerland are still unclear, but evidence is building that the decision was involuntary, forced on him by heavy pressure from key military leaders. He may have been under military custody when escorted to the airport yesterday. Nevertheless, Barrientos reportedly intends to return to Bolivia on 23 January to begin his campaign for the presidency.]

[Reaction to his resignation and temporary absence has been surprisingly mild. There is a general feeling of relief on the part of the armed forces that no crisis has arisen as a result of the resignation. The consensus of military officers seems to be that the resignation has elevated the prestige of the armed forces, and probably that of Barrientos since he chose not to plunge the country into chaos by refusing to resign.]

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Dominican Republic: In his efforts to get key rebel and military leaders to leave the country Garcia Godoy has gone so far as to threaten to resign.

Relations between the President and the leaders of the Dominican armed forces have again become strained over the refusal of any of the military leaders to leave the country in return for the departure of the leading rebel military officers. Garcia Godoy views their refusal as another example of military disrespect for civilian authority. On the other hand Armed Forces Minister Rivera Caminero and his service chiefs view the departure of any of them at this time as a sop to the leftists and damaging to the unity of the armed forces. Rebel leaders refuse to leave unless the armed forces leaders do.]

Leftist extremists, outraged that Garcia Godoy did not directly blame and punish the Dominican military for the Santiago incident, have begun attacking the provisional government and calling for a renewal of the general strike.

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The Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), believing that senior regular military officers would be sent abroad, has taken its most critical stand to date against Garcia Godoy. PRD leaders, however, are attempting to maintain the party's bargaining position by creating the impression that the PRD is all that stands in the way of a general strike and widespread violence. Bosch, during recent months, has warned against PRD participation in this type of agitation.

The Secretary General of the PRD told the US Embassy on 4 January that the party would withdraw from the electoral race if the military situation "were

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not remedied." The ostensible reason would probably be that the military, controlled in large part by prerevolutionary leaders, would not allow a victorious PRD candidate to assume the presidency. Such a tactic could be used to avoid a PRD electoral defeat, should the party conclude that it cannot win the elections on 3 June.

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